

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011



Mission: To promote safe and healthy individuals and families through the prevention of interpersonal and family violence.

A United Way of the Bluegrass Agency

Domestic Violence Prevention Board
Members

Chair:
Kathy Witt,
Fayette County Sheriff

Vice-Chair:
Rashmi Adi-Brown
CHES Solutions Group

Secretary:
Anita Capillo, Director
LFUCG SANE Program

Treasurer:
Beth Mills, Commissioner
LFUCG Division of Social Services

Grace Akers, SRA
Ky. Cabinet for Health/Family Services

Hon. Clay Mason, Commissioner
LFUCG Division of Public Safety

Billie Davenport
Brenda D. Cowan Coalition

Lt. Thomas Curtsinger
LFUCG Division of Police

Sherry Culp, Director
Bluegrass Nursing Home Ombudsmen

Stephanie Humes, Director
Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center

Hon. Ray Larson
Fayette Commonwealth Attorney

Cheryl Talbert, Director
LFUCG Adult Services

Dr. TK Logan
UK Center on Drug and Alcohol
Research

Wilma Lynch
Fayette Circuit/District Clerk

Velva Reed
Fayette County Public Schools

Sally Rhoads, LCSW
Private Practice

Hon. Larry Roberts
Fayette County Attorney

Hon. Kathy Stein
Private Practice

Darlene Thomas, Director
Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program

Hon. Joann Wise
Hon. Lucinda Masterton
Hon. Tim Philpot
Hon. John Schrader
Fayette Family Court

Staff:
Teri Faragher, Director

So many names, there is barely room on the walls of the heart.
Billy Collins, Former Poet Laureate of the United States

September 19, 2011

To the Domestic Violence Prevention Board and the Residents of Fayette County:

I was preparing to write this annual report during the week leading up to the tenth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Every time I turned on my radio or television I was reminded of the horrific events of that day, and the aftermath of those events that has unfolded over the past ten years. I was moved to tears a number of times as I heard media reports that honored individuals who lost their lives that day and their surviving family members, and celebrated the still unbelievable heroism that was demonstrated on September 11th and the days that followed. Other programs I heard took a more investigative approach focusing on the many ways in which that tragedy changed us, as a country and as individuals, and examined the considerable financial and personal costs of our efforts to protect ourselves as a nation.

I, as most Americans, still remember watching in disbelief as the twin towers fell and the Pentagon burned. The next morning the dots between the large-scale public display of terrorism we had just witnessed and the more private and personal forms of terrorism that we deal with everyday were connected by the headline of the Lexington Herald Leader, "Terror Hits Home." I knew that that headline had personal meaning for many people who saw it as a literal description of their experience of terror in their homes; at the hands of someone they love. Terry Anderson, the journalist who was held hostage by terrorists in Libya for seven years, had already made this connection when he described domestic violence as the worst form of terrorism because of its personal nature and egregious violation of love and trust. Our homes, as our country, are our havens of safety. When they are violated by terror it undermines our identity and our confidence. It is informative that, a decade after 9/11, we are still struggling to heal and to find our balance as a nation.

The tragic personal stories of survivors and of those who perished have become a part of the American experience, and our entire country has been brought to a greater understanding of the devastating effects of trauma on victims, whether that trauma is inflicted by a natural disaster, a terrorist or someone close to the victim. The narratives of 9/11 survivors not only elicited our compassion; it also fueled our commitment to stop those who perpetrate terror in our homes, our communities, and our nation.

Both personal and public terrorism are motivated by a desire to control and dominate through fear. But, as I stated in the 2001 annual report, we are not defined by the atrocities perpetrated against us, but by our response to them. The 9/11 first responders were the ultimate models of courage, selflessness, and dedication to saving lives. They defined for us what it truly means to be an American, and gave us the hope we so desperately needed for the future. While recognizing the absolutely extraordinary nature of their heroism, I believe that we witness similar heroic acts on a daily basis by the people we have charged with the challenging task of responding to the smaller, more intimate disasters that occur in homes in our community every day.

September 11th had a profound effect on all of us, and forever altered the lives of many people. On the positive side, it made us focus on what is truly important during the short

time we have on Earth, and strengthened our familial and community bonds. Some of the most compelling stories I heard this past week were the stories of people who made significant life and career changes after surviving the attacks. Some of them went from successful and monetarily rewarding careers, such as investment banking and real estate, to careers that they perceived as more fulfilling and rewarding in other ways, such as teaching, social services, public safety and the military. It was heartening to hear the high value they placed on the career paths that most of you chose early in your lives. They recognized that the difference they could make in the lives of others was worth more than any material gain they could ever realize.

As members of the DVPB, you represent the “small group of committed individuals” that Margaret Mead recognized as key to bringing about social change. As individuals we possess a variety of skills and attributes: some of us are leaders, some of us prefer the front line; some of us are great public speakers, some of us are great listeners; some of us are visionaries and some of us make visions real. We each bring strengths to the table, but our ability to make a significant difference in the lives of people in Fayette County is dependent on our ability to work together and draw on each other’s assets. We are like an orchestra; when each of us is performing to the best of our abilities and in sync with each other, the result is amazing and harmonious. When we focus on our common goals of safety and peace in our community, and we truly collaborate to intervene with individual victims of interpersonal violence and to address system problems, the people we serve and the community at large reap enormous benefit. Our charge to prevent family and interpersonal violence is a challenging one to say the least, but I believe that with our collective power, will and talents we can, and do achieve the improbable.

I hope you feel some sense of accomplishment as you review the DVPB projects outlined in this report. I am grateful, as always, for the privilege of working with such a capable and passionate group of people and proud to be a part of Fayette County’s efforts to address interpersonal and family violence. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the DVPB’s Executive Committee: our Chair, Sheriff Kathy Witt; our Vice Chair, Rashmi Adi-Brown; our Treasurer, Beth Mills; and our Secretary, Anita Capillo. I have called upon their wisdom and expertise many times during this past year, and am grateful for the support and guidance that they unfailingly provided.

We enter the coming year with a full plate of projects, initiatives and ideas, so if any of you wish you had had more time to participate in the work of the DVPB this past year, do not worry, there will be plenty of opportunities over the next twelve months. I look forward to working with you in our continuing effort to promote a safe and healthy community.

Sincerely,

Teri Faragher
Executive Director

CHILD ABUSE COMMITTEE

Rashmi Adi-Brown, Chair
Gary Haner
Melissa Doyle Harris
Jesse Harris

Gary Haner
Larry Johnson
Velva Reed
Linda Sanders

<u>Project</u>	<u>Status</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in monthly meetings between Fayette County Public Schools and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to facilitate ongoing communication and interagency cooperation in child protective service investigations.	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan and co-sponsor biennial in-service training, Child Abuse: A Cooperative Approach with Fayette Public Schools, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and the Crimes Against Children Unit of the Police Department. (Scheduled for September 29, 2011 at the Fayette County Cooperative Extension Office).	In Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sponsor training on New Family Court Rules and How They Apply to Dependency, Neglect and Abuse Cases with presenter Duane Osbourne and training on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders by Laura Nagle. (Scheduled for September 29, 2011).	In Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide four trainings regarding child abuse/neglect and the link to intimate partner violence for individuals working with children.	Completed

PARTNER ABUSE COMMITTEE

Rhonda Henry, Chair	Evelyn Mace	Rick Curtis
Rashmi Adi-Brown	Melanie Matson	Thomas Curtsinger
Robin Anderson	Jennifer Miller	Catherine DeFlorio
Susy Aparicio	Joe Modica	Diane Fleet
Rhonda Bach	Barbara Norris	James Gabbard
Aundria Burkhart	Kathy Phillips	Mary Gaunder
Anita Capillo	Sabrina Puckett	Irene Gooding
Pati Coulter	Sally Rhoads	Robin Green
Thomas Curtsinger	Rodrick Robinson	Rhonda Henry
Billie Davenport	Dani Rodgers	Mary Lynn Houlihan
Lyndsay Deaver	Isabel Taylor	Stephanie Humes
Catherine DeFlorio	Stephanie Theakston	TK Logan
Mike Finucane	Darlene Thomas	Carolee Mather
Diane Fleet	Lee Turpin	Jennifer Miller
James Gabbard	Amy Ward	Joe Modica
Mary Gaunder	Melinda Weathers	Kathy Phillips
Stephanie Harper	Kelly Wells	Larry Roberts
Patrick Holley	Kathy Witt	Darlene Thomas
Stephanie Humes	DV Protect/Enforce	Lee Turpin
Tonya Jernigan	Community Partners:	Melinda Weathers
Cherie Jones	Rhonda Bach	Kelly Wells
Sharon Kopyc	Anita Capillo	Ben Willis
TK Logan	Emily Corman-Howard	Kathy Witt

Project

Status

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, revise, translate and print informational materials on intimate partner violence, including: a brochure on stalking, a brochure on safety planning, and a Fayette County resource guide. All materials (33,000 copies) printed in English and Spanish through a \$5,000 Kentucky Justice and Public Safety, STOP Violence Against Women grant in December 2010. | Completed |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Kentucky Educational Television and Renee Shaw to present program on stalking during National Stalking Awareness Month. Program aired January 2011. | Completed |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and sponsor one day roundtable training and discussion on sexual assault in the context of domestic violence. Training planned for Friday, November 4, 2011 at the Lexington Central Library. | In Process |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in community efforts to implement Amanda's Law and associated efforts related to GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders. | Ongoing |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with facilitation of community efforts to identify and address the needs of immigrants and refugees who have been victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. | In Process |

Project**Status**

- Revise and distribute list of victim advocates willing to serve as support to victims of domestic violence at Family Team Meetings. In Process
- Create list of current support groups for victims and survivors of domestic violence in Fayette County. In Process
- Create document that outlines victim advocacy services in Fayette County, and how/when those services can be accessed. In Process
- Assist the Division of Police with implementation of the VAWA funded Domestic Violence Protection and Enforcement Project involving collaborative partnerships between the DOP, criminal justice and community agencies. Ongoing
- Facilitate the Fatality/Near Fatality Review Team in Fayette County as part of the Protection and Enforcement Project. Four cases reviewed this year; 10 cases total. F/NFRT chaired by Judge Joann Wise. Ongoing
- Participate in Kentucky Attorney General's Fatality Review Team Initiative to develop a model protocol and data collection system for domestic violence fatality review, and support and encourage the formation of fatality review teams in the state. In Process
- Disseminate information regarding legislative proposals to the 2011 Ky. General Assembly relating to intimate partner violence and sexual assault. Completed
- Establish local Open Doors Committee to facilitate community discussion on domestic violence victims who use force and to address needs of victims who are incarcerated. In Process

SAFE HAVENS CONSULTING COMMITTEE (Ad Hoc)

Catherine DeFlorio
Irene Gooding
David Graves
Nan Hanley
Jesse Harris
Scott Lancaster
Ana Machado
Jennifer Miller

Barry Minton
Barbara Norris
Sabrina Puckett
Dani Rodgers
Stephanie Theakston
Kelly Wells
Joann Wise
Teri Faragher, Facilitator

Activities

- Awarded three-year development grant by the Office on Violence Against Women to continue supervised visitation services in Fayette, develop visitation services in one or more rural communities, and conduct outreach to immigrant and refugee populations. (\$376,000 awarded).
- Awarded Violence Against Women Act STOP grant to provide bridge funding for supervised visitation services in Fayette County during planning phase of Safe Havens grant project. (Approximately \$20,000 awarded).
- Established Safe Havens Consulting Committee to provide guidance and support in grant implementation.
- Attended two Office on Violence Against Women, Safe Havens grant meetings (three community partners participated in each of two meeting: December 8-10, 2010 meeting in Texas, May 10-12, 2011 meeting in Rhode Island).
- Hosted site visit in Lexington for three Vera Institute technical assistants March 14-15, 2011; participated in monthly conference calls with Vera Institute staff.
- Developed mission and vision statements for the Safe Havens project.
- Worked with Sunflower Kids to revise the client contract and intake/orientation forms to make them more consistent with the new Safe Havens philosophy of supervised visitation services. Currently in the process of revising all of Sunflower Kids policies and procedures, utilizing Safe Havens guiding principles.
- Worked with Sunflower Kids and AU Associates on site plan and security for new facility at Parkside Development in Lexington.
- Developed survey to assess the supervised visitation needs of domestic violence victims with children. Currently working with the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program to implement the survey.

ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Organized quarterly meetings of the DVPB, and meetings of standing and ad hoc committees.
- Staffed all DVPB committees and completed related tasks (e.g., writing reports, documents, grants, progress reports and correspondence; organizing interagency meetings and forums, and; conducting workshops).
- Served as a clearinghouse on family violence issues for Fayette County, providing information and materials to victims, agencies, students, and the general public.
- Completed three-year grant application to United Way of the Bluegrass. (Awarded \$9,300 for year one).
- Co-authored federal Office on Violence Against Women, Safe Havens three-year Development Grant proposal to provide supervised visitation services. (Awarded \$376,000 in September 2010).
- Program administrator of Fayette County Safe Havens project.
- Co-authored STOP Violence Against Women grant to bridge gap in funding for supervised visitation services. (Awarded \$20,000 in January 2011).
- Co-authored federal Office on Violence Against Women, Arrest and Enforcement Continuation Grant to maintain increase in arrests and enhance risk assessment and intervention efforts. (\$400,000 Arrest Grant pending.)
- Assisted with facilitation of the Domestic Violence Protection and Enforcement Project Community Partners Committee.
- Staffed the Fayette County Fatality/Near Fatality Review Team.
- Authored STOP Violence Against Women grant to fund printing and translation of informational materials for domestic violence victims. (Awarded \$5,000 in October 2011).
- Consulted with the Mary Byron Foundation on project to develop virtual think tank on risk assessment in domestic violence.
- Member of Attorney General Jack Conway's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative; member of Model Protocol Committee.
- Participated in St. Joseph Health System, Violence Prevention Initiative.
- Participated in World Affairs Council, panel on Human Trafficking for South American delegation.
- Member of the Human Trafficking Task Force, Eastern District.
- Member of the U.K. College of Social Work Advisory Board.
- Member of the Fayette Family Court Advisory Council.
- Participated in two Kentucky Educational Television program panels on domestic violence and stalking.
- Presented 10 workshops on family and interpersonal violence and developing a coordinated community response to a variety of professionals including physicians, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges and social workers.